MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Foreign Minister Elie Salim denied that 2 April is the "deadline" for reaching an agreement with Israel, but asserted that if no agreement is reached "in the next 2 weeks" then Lebanon must "raise the temperature of the negotiations" and hold more contacts "within the U.S. initiative," Beirut radio reported. Salim added that a stage has been reached where an agreement is "almost ready" provided that intentions are good and each party wants to ensure the sovereignty and stability of the other, the radio added.

During the 25 March tripartite talks in Netanya, Lebanese delegation head Antoine Fattal affirmed to the Israeli delegation that Salim's remarks on the need to reach an agreement within 2 weeks are not an ultimatum, Beirut radio reported citing a Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch. Israeli delegation head David Kimche said he is happy to know that Israel is not facing an ultimatum because it had refused to continue the discussions under such conditions, the radio added citing the Israeli delegation spokesman. The Lebanese delegation spokesman noted that the plenary discussion was "frank" and said the delegations urged the military subcommittee to immediately begin studying the main points concerning the security arrangements.

Security Situation -- An IDF soldier was wounded by a bomb exploding as an IDF patrol drove near the Ash-Shuwayfat neighborhood, south of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, commander of the IDF forces in Lebanon Brigadier General Amnon Lipkin said the "terrorists" who attack IDF soldiers come from the area under the control of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force. He added that most of the "terrorists" are members of the PLO's Fatah organization and pointed out that during the past 4 weeks seven or eight ambushes were set in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven were wounded.

Reaction to U.S. Decision on Missile Sales

Commenting on the U.S. decision to sell air-to-air missiles to Israel, Riyadh radio asked if the U.S. Administration is trying to undermine or abort President Reagan's peace initiative by giving this support to the Israelis at precisely this time. Citing recent remarks by Jordan's King Husayn indicating that he will announce his position on Reagan's initiative in the next few days, the radio pointed out that the U.S. decision is being described as "American pressure." The radio also noted that the U.S. Administration has refrained from selling any weapons to any side in the Middle East for about 1 year.

An article in the Jordanian paper AD-DUSTUR reviewed by Amman radio asked whether this new military aid to Israel is the "pressure" that the Arabs have been expecting from the United States. The article added that Washington's decision to supply Israel with 200 sophisticated missiles "takes us back to square one" and noted that it will be "regrettable and serious" if U.S. and Israeli views are identical.

Egypt

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared that 1983 will witness the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the Soviet Union now that the reasons which led to the severance of relations "no longer exist," MENA announced confirming an earlier report on 'Ali's remarks. Meanwhile, Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, indicated that Egyptian-Soviet relations "will improve in the next few weeks," MENA noted citing Ghali's remarks to National Democratic Party leaders. On relations with Israel, Ghali affirmed that Egypt "will

not cede 1 centimeter" of Tabah, but will regain it "sooner or later." Regarding relations with Sudan, he emphasized the Egyptian-Sudanese military treaty and said Egypt "will intervene immediately" in the event of "any direct or indirect aggression" against Sudan.

PLO Affairs

Addressing the final meeting of the 16th session of the standing commission on Afro-Arab cooperation in Tunis, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said, "We place our humble potential at the service of Africa and our technical expertise at its disposal," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Later 'Arafat visited Algeria and met with President Chadli Bendjedid, according to APS.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum met in Damascus with Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, Damascus radio reported. Al-Fahum stressed the close relationship between the Palestinian people and the USSR and Koshoyev affirmed Soviet support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state, the radio added. Meanwhile, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has indicated that Israel will launch a new offensive against the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' area and will strike "deep inside Syria" using Syria's "defensive" missiles as a pretext, Damascus radio noted citing Hawatimah's interview with Cuba's PRELA.

Algeria

An Algerian envoy departed for Moscow carrying a message to CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov from President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio reported. The radio added that another envoy would shortly visit Saudi Arabia to deliver a message from Bendjedid to King Fahd.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a congratulatory telegram to Morocco's King Hassan II on the occasion of throne day in which he wished the king good health and happiness and the fraternal Moroccan people progress and prosperity, Rabat radio reported.

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DETAINEES, PRISONERS RELEASED ON NATIONAL DAY

BK250824 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] On the occasion of the ensuing independence and national day, the government has decided to release another 125 detainees, 124 under trial prisoners, and 37 convicts (?from custody) in addition to those already released in connection with the incidents of 14 and 15 February last. According to an official handout issued in Dhaka last night, the government hopes that the persons set free will mend their ways and behave as responsible members of the society and contribute their might to the building of a new and prosperous Bangladesh.

ERSHAD, CHOWDHURY GREET ZIA ON NATIONAL DAY

BK230707 Dhaka BSS in English 0654 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Dhaka, Mar 23 (BSS) -- Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad has greeted General Ziaul Haq on the occasion of the national day of Pakistan.

In a message of felicitation to Gen. Ziaul Haq, Bangladesh head of government Gen. Ershad expressed the hope that the "existing close bonds of friendship" between the two countries will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of "our two peoples" in the years to come.

In a similar message, President Assanuddin Chowdhury wished "progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Pakistan" and hoped the relations between the two countries will be "further deepened" in future.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH YAR -- Bangladesh and the Arab Republic of Yemen have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassador's level. One of Bangladesh's ambassadors from a nearby resident mission would be concurrently accredited to Yemen. [Text] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 22 Mar 83 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE -- Dhaka, Mar 23 (BSS) -- Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit its present high commissioner to Zimbabwe as ambassador to Mozambique. The government's decision announcing the additional assignment for High Commissioner Saber Reza Karim was made last night. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0656 GMT 23 Mar 83 BK]

DISEASES CLAIM 2,600 LIVES -- Dhaka, March 18 (BSS) -- Cholera and diarrheal diseases have claimed more than 2,600 lives in Bangladesh since last September, official sources told BSS. The sources said 173,382 people from eleven districts were attacked by the disease of which 2,618 died. During the first three months of the current calender year, the death figure stood at 458, the sources said. Health Minister Major General Shamsul Haq who went on a whirlwind tour Thursday of some of the affected areas held talks with the local officials engaged in medical assistance. He called upon the people to strictly maintain general hygienic condition to face the problem. Health Ministry sources said about 500 medical teams with doctors and para-medics are working in the affected areas to combat the disease and adequate medicine have been supplied. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 83 BK]

COMMISSION TO REVIEW CENTER-STATE RELATIONS

BK241345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The central government has decided to appoint a commission to go into the center-state relations. Announcing this in both houses of parliament today, Prime Minister Gandhi said the government has been considering for some time past the need for the review of the existing arrangements between the center and the states. Such a review will take into account the importance of the unity and the integrity of the country for promoting the welfare of the people. The one-man commission will be headed by R.S. Sarkaria, retired judge of the Supreme Court.

Opposition, Chief Ministers React

BK250849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Leaders of almost all the opposition parties in parliament have welcomed the appointment of the Sarkaria commission to go into the center-state relations. In a statement issued in New Delhi, they described the step as good though belated. They have however sought some clarifications about the scope of the commission.

The prime minister announced the constitution of the commission in parliament yesterday. It will examine the working of the existing arrangements between the center and the state and recommend appropriate changes within the constitutional framework.

The opposition leaders who had issued the statement included Mr Harkishan Singh Surjit, Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M]; Professor Mandhu Dandavate, Janata; Mr L. F. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party; Mr Rashid Masood, Lok Dal; Yogendra Sharma, CPI; Mr K.P. Unnikrishanan, Congress-S; Mr Harikesh Bahadur, Democratic Socialist Party; Mr C. T. Dandapani, Dravida Munetra Kazhegam; Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; Mr Ibrahim Suleman Seth, Muslim League; and Mr Chandrajit Yadav, Janwadi.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has described the decision as a right step. The Tamilnadu chief minister, Mr Ramachandran, said that his government and his party wholeheartedly welcomed the prime minister's announcement. Dravidra Munetra Kazhegam president and a former chief minister, Mr M. Karunanithi, and former Congress chief minister, (Mr N. Bhatta Vatselam), have also supported the center's decision. The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, described the decision as necessary and timely. The Karnataka chief minister said the commission should go into the entire gamut of the center-state relations. In Kerala, the CPI-M leader and former chief minister, Mr E. K. Nayanar, said that the scope of the commission should be wide. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Vasant Dad Patil, also welcomed the appointment of the commission.

The prime minister has said that there is no controversy between the center and the state but the issue has been raised unnecessarily by some people. Mrs Gandhi was addressing participants in the advanced professional program of the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi yesterday. She said India has been making steady progress and every year large numbers of people are brought above the poverty line. We have made notable achievements in science and technology but it is better off persons who take greater advantage of facilities created by such advances (?instead) of the poor.

RAO INFORMS PARLIAMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES

Concern Over Visa Conveyed to U.S.

BK241611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Replying to the 9-hour debate on the demands for grants of his ministry, Narasimha Rao told the house that India has forcefully conveyed its concern to the United States Government over the issue of a visa to Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the self-styled leader of the so-called Khalistan Movement. He said this is a matter which concerns the integrity of India. The house later voted the demand.

Referring to the recent nonaligned summit, Rao said the declaration and the New Delhi message are being brought to the attention of the nuclear powers, industrialized nations, and other countries to obtain their support and cooperation. He said the documents have evoked a good deal of response all over the world, As chairman, India will do everything in its power to see that the movement was strengthened. Rao disclosed that he himself will be going to Buenos Aires next week to attend the meeting of the Group of 77 along with the commerce minister. He would explain to the conference the views expressed at the summit and its important pronouncements on economic issue.

About the Iran-Iraq conflict, he said India is in touch with both sides. But any further step for a settlement will be taken only when the time is considered appropriate.

Referring to Pakistan, Rao said India is prepared for enlarging trade and cultural relations. Pakistan is, however, reluctant for what its government may consider good reasons. He said induction of sophisticated arms has led to the escalation of tension in the region. We have to think of what to do to meet the situation.

He assured members that nothing will be done that may lead to the isolation of any part if the country while leasing out Teen Bhigha to Bangladesh.

Pakistani 'Change' on Afghanistan Noted

BK241150 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said in the Lok Sabha today that there has been a change in Pakistan's attitude over the Afghanistan issue. This, he said, is indicated by Pakistan's acceptance to take part in the Geneva talks scheduled for next month. In reply to a question, the minister said Cordovez, the personal representative of the UN secretary general, has already visited Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to discuss a political solution. The talks are going well and in the right direction, he added.

Narasimha Rao said the nonaligned summit has reiterated the urgent call for a political settlement and India actively participated in evolving the nonaligned formulation on the Afghanistan issue.

Relations With Pakistan 'Improved'

BK250852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said India's relations with Pakistan have improved and expressed the hope that these would be improved further.

He told the Rajya Sabha during question hour that on the question of Kashmir, neither side raised the matter at bilateral level during the recent nonaligned summit. He said that Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq, in his address to the summit, referred to Indo-Pakistan relations and said we should find a just solution to the problem of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Rao said that no formal protest was made to Pakistan but our official spokesman to the summit reiterated India's commitment to the Simla agreement which provided for settlement of issues through bilateral efforts. Spokesman explained that as far as India was concerned, the only question about Jammu and Kashmir is the return to India of the territory of the state under occupation of Pakistan.

GANDHI: NO ASSIST TO EGYPT ON NUCLEAR CENTER

BK241206 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] India does not propose to assist Egypt in setting up an atomic energy center in that country. The prime minister told the Rajya Sabha today that the two countries have an existing bilateral cooperation agreement on various aspects of peaceful uses of atomic energy. Mrs Gandhi also denied that any proposal is under consideration between India and Pakistan for reciprocal visit of nuclear scientists between the two countries.

WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY REJECTS NO-CONFIDENCE MOVE

BK250839 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The West Bengal assembly has rejected a no-confidence motion against the left front government last night by 184 votes to nil amidst walkout by the Congress-I and the Congress-S members. Two SUCI [Socialist Unity Center of India] members abstained from voting.

LOK DAL, CONGRESS-J TO DECIDE ON JOINT PROGRAM

BK241617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Lok Dal President Charan Singh and Congress-J President Jagjivan Ram have said their parties will work together on the basis of a joint action program to be decided within a fortnight. Releasing a statement in New Delhi, Lok Dal General Secretary S.N. Mishra said the national executive of his party has already approved the decision. In reply to a question, Mishra said that the two leaders did not meet and the decision was taken with the help of intermediaries.

ENERGY, FINANCE MINISTERS VIEW OIL SITUATION

BK201724 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] The energy minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, has ruled out any reduction in the prices of petroleum products because of the $5 cut in the crude prices by the OPEC. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that the country will save 4.15 billion rupees in foreign exchange in 1983-84 as a result of the 15-percent price cut announced by OPEC. This saving, he said, will be [word indistinct] into the oil pool account for exploration of oil. He said India will import about 14 million tons of oil and 4.5 million tons of petroleum products this year.

Asked about adulteration of kerosene and diesel because of the disparity in prices between the two, he said that a strict vigilance system is being worked out to check this. He also disclosed that the government has not taken any decision on the reduction of price of naphtha used as seed stock in some units for production of fertilizer.

The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said with the steady increase in indigenous production, the country is going to be more or less self-sufficient in oil in the coming years. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta today, he said that by the end of the current financial year, the production figure of oil will be 24 million tons. It will be 26 million tons in 1983-84 and 28-29 million tons in 1984-85.

The finance minister said that oil prices in the country have been stepped up to increase the revenue for planned expenditure on the oil sector. During the sixth plan, more than 45 million rupees was invested in the oil sector. It is now going to be more than 100 billion to help generate internal resources.

Mr Mukherjee expressed satisfaction over the slashing of bill on account of import of crude oil. [as heard]

MINISTER OF STATE ESTIMATES URANIUM RESERVES

BK241156 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The country is estimated to have 67,000 tons of uranium ore reserves, which is sufficient to meet our demands. Stating this in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for science and technology, Shivraj Patil, said our annual requirement of uranium is about 213 tons. We are in the process of developing uranium oxide. Patil said, except for Tarapur atomic powerplant, we are using natural uranium as fuel for other atomic powerplants. We are getting enriched uranium from France under an agreement for the Tarapur plant, he said.

PRESS NOTES ISSUED ON CURRENT KARACHI SITUATION

23 March Report

BK231534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this evening said that the situation remained normal during the last 24 hours in the city. No report of any untoward incident was received from any area. The press note said that the curfew is being further relaxed in the Liaqatabad police station area from tomorrow and that it will be relaxed from 0500 to 1000 and 1600 to 2000.

24 March Report

BK241526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Karachi administration has issued a press note according to which the situation in the city remained normal during the past 24 hours and no report of any untoward incident was received from any area. The curfew will be relaxed in Liaqatabad police station area from 0500 to 1000 and from 1600 to 2000 tomorrow.

SHI'ITE COUNCIL APPEALS TO 'ISLAMIC FRATERNITY'

BK241631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] The Shi'ite council today appealed to the Islamic fraternity not to (?give importance) to posters and pamphlets published by anonymous elements as they have been published to create sectarian prejudice and to spread hatred between Shi'ite and Sunni sects. The council issued a written statement in Karachi today in which the people have been cautioned to ignore these posters and booklets, some of which are aimed against Shi'ites and some against Sunnis. The council clarified that such pamphlets and posters are neither from the Sunni nor the Shi'ite side, but rather they are the product of miscreant elements who intend to spread hatred among Muslims and sow the seeds of discord between them. The appeal further said that when it is [words indistinct] is a cause for grief and concern for the common Muslims. This is a cause of happiness for anti-Pakistan elements. The Shi'ite council asked Muslim brothers to create an atmosphere of mutual love and brotherhood and thereby foil the heinous designs of these miscreant and antinational elements.

ZIA RECEIVES LEADERS' GREETINGS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK230429 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Ye Jianying, chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC's National People's Congress and Premier Zhao Ziyang have congratulated the president on the occasion of the national day of Pakistan. Similar messages have also been received from the USSR Supreme Presidium and from the heads of state or government of Iran, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Indonesia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, DPRK, Republic of Korea, the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Canada and the deputy prime minister of Egypt and the president of the Pakistan-Nepal Friendship Association.

MUSAVI ADDRESSES KORDESTAN STUDENTS ON UNITY

LD242218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] A group of students from Kordestan, who are in Tehran to participate in the camps of the mobilization organization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, yesterday met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

On behalf of the group from Kordestan, a Kurdish student read a report; then a group of students sang a song. The prime minister paid tribute to Kordestan's martyrs and all the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution. He referred to the lives of Martyr Bahonar, Martyr Raja'i, and other responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran who had sprung from the ranks of the meek and deprived classes of society. He also embarked on an analysis of the movement by the hypocritical minigroups and those subservient to the superpowers.

Referring to the unity of our Shi'ite and Sunnite brethren and to the role of that unity in the movement of the Islamic Revolution, the prime minister said: Kordestan, Sistan, Baluchestan, and everywhere the chanting of the Koran and unity ring loud and clear have been subjected to plots and onslaughts by the foes of the Islamic Revolution. Every outstanding figure and personality who called for unity has been constantly subjected to threats by the polytheistic and hypocritical minigroups.

Citing the fact that the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran would be the harbinger of victory throughout the world and of the awakening of the world's meek, the prime minister emphasized: We have 1 billion Muslims throughout the world. Should the banner of the Islamic Revolution victoriously fly over Iran, then all these Muslim nations the world over would rise in struggle.

Mr Musavi then referred to the main plot hatched by the United States and imperialism, which aimed at sowing discord between our Shi'ite and Sunnite brethren. The prime minister said: To appreciate the expanse and depth of this plot, it is sufficient to ponder its effects were it successful -- God forbid!

The prime minister also referred to the plot hatched by the United States which attempted to fan a Shi'ite-Sunnite war in one of our neighboring countries. He said: We condemn that plot and will firmly stand up against it.

Mr Musavi referred to the fact that the United States and world arrogance are equally inimical to the Shi'ites and Sunnites. Regarding the anniversary of the martyrdom Shahri Kandi by agents of the United States and also to such martyrs as Dastgheb and Saduqi, the prime minister said: Martyr Shahri Kandi was one of the dedicated Sunnite clergy who defended the rights of our Sunnite brethren. For that very reason, he was assassinated by agents of the United States.

In conclusion, Mr Musavi emphasized the necessity of safeguarding unity. He said: Our victory will not be realized except through a unity of our words and under the protection of the Koran and Islam and the mighty hand of the meek and slum dwellers. In this direction, every step that you take will be tantamount to an act of worship.

GOVERNMENT, KURDISH FORCES CLASH; DEATHS REPORTED

GF241713 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] We have received different reports on the clashes between the Kurdish forces which are against the Islamic Republic and the government forces.

According to these reports, in the clashes which have taken place in the Mohammad Shah region in northwest Iran, the Kurdish forces killed 36 mercenary guards of the regime and 11 from the Kurdish forces were killed.

In this regard, the radio of the Islamic Republic reported that in this clash between the government and the Kurdish forces, 30 guerrillas of the Komeleh organization were killed. Another report says that, early yesterday morning, a group of armed personnel equipped with RPG rockets attacked the guardpost near Sar Dasht. In this attack, 23 guards were killed and a number of others were wounded.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,258

LD241747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,258 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fighting took place on the country's western fronts yesterday in the form of a sporadic exchange of fire between Islam's victorious combatants and Saddam's hirelings. Consequently, a number of enemy servicemen were killed and several enemy foxholes and trenches were destroyed.

On the Marivan front, the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, opening effective fire on enemy units in the Tutman and Panjwin regions and on the (Biyarah) Barracks, succeeded in destroying several enemy vehicles and in killing or wounding a number of enemy servicemen.

In the southern operational zones, our powerful forces continued to defend the positions entrusted to their care.

An exchange of fire continued on the Abadan front. Thanks to fire opened by our units, all movement by the Iraqi mercenary forces along the Al-Faw-Basra axis was stopped.

Enemy positions on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud also became the target of fire opened by Islam's forces and several of their trenches and light and heavy weapons were set ablaze. In the meantime, part of an enemy military base was destroyed and a number of Iraqi mercenaries were killed.

The City of Abadan yesterday was subjected to sporadic heavy weapons fire and as a result certain areas were set ablaze and two stores and one house were destroyed; one of our compatriots was wounded.

During the past 24 hours, all air raids by the mercenaries of the Iraqi Zionist regime on our country's western and southern border cities were repulsed and neutralized thanks to our selfless Air Force pilots and the fire of our antiaircraft units.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

INTERIOR MINISTER WARNS AGAINST DISTURBANCES

GF250946 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Mar 83 p 16

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Department of Interior Ministry on behalf of Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri -- 14 March]

[Text] Hezbollah and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran: Reports have been received from a large number of our dedicated brothers in Iran, protesting the disturbances of public peace by a group of atheistic individuals who held protest marches and demonstrations. On the basis of its legal authority, the Interior Ministry considers it necessary to mention the following while simultaneously condemning the inhuman behavior of those who, even after 4 years of the Islamic Revolution, cling to the idolatrous heritage, abuse the blessings and bounties of Islam, and trample upon the harvest of the valuable blood of our Islamic youth, which is proof of the Islamic values and nature:

1. According to the announcement by the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and the committee for the enforcement of the imam's decrees, all kinds of abuse of the imam's utterances to spread corruption and displays of dissatisfaction will be interpreted as counterrevolutionary and anti-Islamic and guilty persons will be liable to prosecution according to the shari'a;

2. All law enforcement officials will take necessary measures according to their legal jurisdiction and in keeping with the directive of the central Islamic Revolution prosecutor whenever they observe any violations;

3. While offering gratitude and appreciation to the ubiquitous hezbollahi nation which is the constant guardian of the sanctity of the blood of the martyrs, we request that they refrain from any individual or collective measures and allow the officials to carry out their legal duties to prevent the counterrevolutionary and minigroup elements which are a constant sore on the Islamic Republic's body from performing any subversive acts. Violators will be dealt with according to the law.

All marches are subject to prior notice and permission from the Interior Ministry as usual.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri -- Interior Ministry

PROSECUTOR ON PRISONERS' MEETINGS WITH FAMILIES

LD241226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, prisoners in Evin Prison were today visited by the families of the minigroups.

During this meeting, which was also attended by foreign reporters, Central Islamic Revolution Prosecutor Lajevardi said in an interview that while imperialist-Zionist lie-spreading media say everyday that the prisoners are molested and are not visited by their families, today, in the fifth spring of freedom, these minigroups are meeting their families in the open courtyard of Evin Prison and foreign reporters are not restricted in their reporting. He expressed the hope that if these reporters consider themselves committed, they will report accurately to the world what they see today in the prison courtyard.

He told our correspondent: Before 30 Khordad last year [20 June], the prisoners met their families on the prison lawn. But today, as you can see, about 300 prisoners, who are members of counterrevolutionary minigroups, are seeing about 2,000 of their families in this open space. I don't think that such a project could be implemented anywhere else in the world, with the prisoners seeing their families without any restrictions.

He added that about 400 prisoners are working in various workshops prepared for them inside the prison. An institute is being established in Karaj comprising about 56 hectares, in which about 200 prisoners are working at the moment. The number will be increased to about 2,000 in the future. He finally said that other prisoners are working within the reconstruction jihad organization in agricultural and construction sections at Evin Prison.

Radio Iran Reaction

GF241643 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Assadollah Lajevardi, executioner of Evin Prison, while staging again today an exhibition of prisoner meetings with their families, claimed that there were no restrictions on the presence of foreign correspondents at Evin Prison. However, he did not explain why, in spite of the existence of such liberties, the regime of the Islamic Republic withdrew its invitation to the representative of the secretary general of the United Nations to study the condition of Iranian prisoners.

While the universities of Iran continue to be closed and stagnant, Lajevardi this morning gave the good news to the correspondent of the radio of the Islamic Republic that a complex with the dimensions of nearly 56 hectares, or 5,600 square meters, is under construction at Karaj for the prisoners. In other words, it is a new prison. It must be recalled that in his new year message Khomeyni said: We have so many good things in this paradise of the Islamic Republic that we cannot be thankful enough for them.

MINISTERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXECUTIONS

GF231648 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Reports received from Tehran say that Assadollah Lajevardi, the revolution prosecutor, has asked Khomeyni to have the prime minister of the Islamic Republic and the Cabinet ministers, by turn, participate in the firing-squad executions at Evin Prison. Thus, by executing freedom-loving men and women of Iran, they will prove their devotion to the anti-Iranian regime of Khomeyni and provide satisfaction for the self-sacrificing guards of Islam. Mohammad Gharazi, the present oil minister of the Islamic Government, and Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the annihilated prime minister, were the first to participate, in the early days of the Khomeyni blight, in the firing squad executions which took place on the roof of the 'Alavi School, the residence of Khomeyni. This is the first time that all the ministers are suppose to participate in such executions to prove their loyalty.

It is said that Lajevardi's proposal was made on the basis of a previous proposal made by Tavakkoli, the minister of labor. Tavakkoli had announced in January that if it was not against Islamic principles, he would voluntarily participate in the firing squads in Evin. Khomeyni accepted his request. After that, Tavakkoli regularly participated in the executions of freedom-loving Iranians.

NVOI CONDEMNS PLAN TO CRUSH REVOLUTIONARY FORCES

TA141115 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Let's End This Dangerous Game"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Today every self-sacrificing and patriotic Iranian is concerned over the revolution's fate and line -- a line which the late Ayatollah Dr Beheshti named as the anti-imperialist, anticapitalist, and antifeudalist line and which the imam's sincere followers call the popular and anti-imperialist line.

The revolution's foes and opponents, headed by the U.S.-afflicted hojjatis, have openly risen in all spheres and levels against this genuine line of the imam and the revolution and against the sincere followers of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line, both religious and nonreligious. Some Islamic Republic Government figures and officials, and particularly a number of the grand clergy, wittingly or not and almost certainly wittingly, are everywhere and in all cases supporting and backing these foes and opponents of the revolution's and imam's genuine line. At the present stage of their counterrevolutionary struggles, on the one hand, they have openly risen in defense of the interests of the major capitalists and landlords and neutralize every positive measure by the Islamic Government to the benefit of our homeland's million-strong masses. And on the other, they have started acting against the true defenders of the working and farming class and other toilers of our homeland's towns and villages, namely, the revolutionary dissenting forces loyal to the imam's and revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line.

In the midst of all this, the role of the ignorant friends of the revolution is extremely worrisome. Many of these ignorant friends of the revolution, simply due to superficiality and blind fanaticism, are openly pouring grist into the mill of counterrevolution and the great satan and have, in fact, taken the side of the agents and mercenaries of world-devouring America, led by the hojjatis without the hojjat.

In the hard class battle against the broad spectrum of the foes and opponents of the revolution, the true forces of the revolution, by their intense and consistent struggle against this broad spectrum and by timely exposure of their plots and conspiracies, have been and remain the greatest obstacle to the promotion of the treacherous goals of the counterrevolution. It is for this reason that for many months the revolution's foes have been striving to implement the plan of suppressing the genuine revolutionary forces. For many months now, these enemies of the revolution have repeatedly tried to impose their treacherous plan of crushing the revolutionary dissenting forces on the sincere followers of the revolution's and imam's line in the Islamic leadership. Finally, after months of endeavor and with the aid of their supporters in the Islamic leadership, especially a number of the grand clergy, they have to some extent succeeded in implementing their ominous plan.

Suppressing the true revolutionary but dissenting forces is, for this reason, of special importance to the broad spectrum of the revolution's foes and opponents, because it prepares the ground for implementing the second stage of their treacherous plan against the revolution, namely, assaulting the sincere followers of the imam's line in the Islamic leadership and shedding the blood of the struggling Muslims.

According to the testimony of hundreds of indisputable documents and proofs, the true revolutionary and loyal but dissenting forces are the most principled, sincere, and faithful friends of the revolution and the sincere followers of the revolution's genuine line. Today, every school child is aware of this fact as well. For this reason, currently in our emancipated and anti-U.S. homeland, it is no secret to anyone that a serious, great, and actual danger is threatening the revolution and its gains. The rightists and the U.S.-afflicted hojjatis are openly saying everywhere that after final victory in the struggle against the Tudeh we will take care of the struggling Muslims and will spill their blood on the ground. They are openly saying that after the Tudeh, it will be the turn of the struggling Muslims and all sincere followers of the revolution's and the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line. It should be stated that there is not the slightest doubt in the seriousness of the remarks by these enemies and opponents of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line.

Naturally, such a situation can only cause the deep concern of every self-sacrificing and patriotic Iranian. The hands of these bloodsucking foes and opponents of the revolution must be cut off from all government organizations and the revolution's institutions before it is too late. One should strive to save the revolution's gains and line in a single front with all the true friends of the revolution and all sincere followers of the revolution's and imam's popular and anti-imperialist line. The major capitalists and landlords must be dispossessed before it is too late. One should rise in a destiny-making battle against all agents and mercenaries of the great satan. An end must be put forever to the policy of conciliation and tolerance toward these enemies, in other words, to a dangerous game with the destiny of the revolution.

NVOI WARNS AGAINST REPETITION OF PAST ERRORS

TA211247 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Do Not Allow Oil Nationalization Movement's Mistakes To Be Repeated"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: On 20 March, exactly 32 years will have elapsed since the approval of the oil nationalization law. The approval of this law was the result of the consistent and selfless struggles of the Iranian people against the domination of the oil plundering monopolies -- struggles which rightly have been recorded in history as the anti-imperialist movement for achieving the independence and freedom of our dear homeland, Iran.

Naturally, world imperialism and the international oil cartel could not remain silent in the face of such a movement. For this reason, all imperialist forces, headed by world-devouring U.S. imperialism, concentrated in a single front to defend the plundering interests of the international oil cartel. Iranian reaction, led by the treacherous court which had no alternative but to retreat at the beginning of the movement, and by relying on the united front of imperialist forces, openly took up a stand in opposition to the oil nationalization movement. Unfortunately, the sincere leaders of the oil nationalization movement, and even Dr Mosaddeq himself, did not take seriously, as they should have, the role of U.S. imperialism as an international gendarme in opposition to the oil nationalization movement. Until the end, they believed in fulfillment of the mediator role by wild U.S. imperialism.

Most worrisome and fatal was that most of those who had a role in the oil nationalization movement had fallen, wittingly or not, into the trap of imperialist propaganda organizations and consistently used to raise the so-called danger of communism, danger from the north and the Soviet danger, and fanned strong and extensive anti-Soviet propaganda in the country -- a condition which, unfortunately, we are witnessing right now in our emancipated revolutionary homeland.

One of the other big mistakes by the leaders of the oil nationalization movement was not realizing the great role of the toiling masses, of Iranian workers and farmers, and abstaining from relying on these forces. The broad spectrum of the foes and opponents of our nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution and their writers in the mass media, by ruminating on the trifles of U.S. espionage organizations, are trying to blame our true revolutionary forces for defeat of the oil nationalizaton movement. However, history's realities cannot be concealed from public opinion with the aid of sophistry, lies, and distoration of facts.

In accordance with the testimony of historical documents and evidence, even in accordance with the testimony of documents published later by U.S. authorities themselves and their espionage services, it was imperialism led by world-devouring U.S. imperialism which, by exploiting the irreparable mistakes of the oil nationalization movements leaders, particularly the errors of Dr Mosaddeq who was optimistic toward America until the end, and also by relying on the landlords and major capitalists and the den of corruption of the treacherous Pahlavi court, led the oil nationalization movement to defeat.

The most important and instructive lesson of the oil nationalization movement, particularly under the current conditons when world-devouring U.S. imperialism, relying on the broad spectrum of the counterrevolution, the rightist, the pseudo-Muslims, the pseudo sources of imitation and the hojjatis, has openly risen in confrontation against the revolution's goals, takes on a revolutionary necessity. Right now as well, we are witnessing these plots by America and the prosperous economic terrorists, the landlords, and their supports among the pseudo sources of imitation in our homeland.

During that time too, Mosaddeq, under the impact of intimations by imperialist propaganda organizations, the treacherous court and the corrupt ruling circle, by raising the so-called danger of communism and the Tudeh danger, not only turned his back on the true revolutionary forces but in some instances even embarked on suppressing these forces. This is the instructive lesson from the oil nationalization movement. The irreparable mistakes of the oil nationalization movement must not be allowed to be repeated once more in our emancipated homeland.

IRNA CITES AFGHAN CLAIM ON SOVIET POISON GAS USE

LD201445 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Stockholm, Sweden, March 20 IRNA -- Soviet occupying forces in Afghanistan are using chemical and other poisonous bombs in their desperate efforts to crush the popular movement of Afghan Muslims to make their country independent, it was stated here by two Afghan resisters.

The two Afghans who were not identified by name told the local daily SVENSKA DAGBLADET here that in many cases the Afghan resisters suffered from complicated physical diseases. In some cases, it was said, the resisters have lost the power of speaking as a result of the impact of the poisonous gas used by the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. It was also said these Soviet forces are equipped with the most modern weapons and other defence facilities.